Blues Guitar For Beginners – 7 Chords

When learning blues guitar for beginners, you must learn 7 chords.

We’re going to learn 3 of the most popular ‘7’ chords.

Those chords are:

E7
A7
B7

For 7th chord charts click link below & scroll down to 7th chords
https://dazwatsonmusic.weebly.com/chord-charts.html

All of these guitar chords are part of a common chord progression in blues music, that progression is the ‘12 bar blues’.

The ‘E7’, ‘A7’ and ‘B7’ all belong to a 12 bar blues in the key of E.

It is possible to play a 12 bar blues in other keys. (click link below for tabs & video)
https://dazwatsonmusic.weebly.com/blues-guitar-tabs.html

However, for today’s lesson we’re going to be focusing on a 12 bar blues in the key of ‘E’.

Essential Chord Progressions

The main progression in blues music is known as a ‘12 bar blues’. You must know this chord progression if you want to learn blues music.

The reason it’s called a 12 bar blues, is because it features…you guessed it! 12 bars. A bar is a segment in musical time, so when we play a 12 bar blues, we have 12 bars of music.

We’re going to be learning a 12 bar blues in the key of E. Here’s the progression: The % sign means play the same chord again
Can you see the bar lines? (The straight lines between each chord.)
If we count the spaces in between the bar lines, you can see that there’s 12 spaces.

You may have noticed that, this progression can repeat freely without getting boring. That’s one of THE best things about a 12 bar blues, it doesn’t need anything else. It’s perfect as it is!

Even though this chord progression sounds great, it needs some rhythm to give it character. Let’s learn 3 essential strumming patterns that will make you sound amazing at blues guitar.

**How To Play Blues Rhythm Guitar**

Rhythm is an important part of learning blues guitar for beginners. It’s the glue which holds the band together.

There are 2 essential blues strumming patterns which we can learn.

1) D D D D
2) D DD  DD DD

**Essential Blues Guitar For Beginners – Guitar Scales**

The two most common scales in blues are:

The blues scale.
The minor pentatonic scale.

[click the link below and scroll down to find these scales in all keys](https://dazwatsonmusic.weebly.com/guitar-scales.html)
Blues Lick #1

Here’s a classic 12 bar blues riff. This would sound great played on bass or guitar. In the music world we refer to this as ‘walking bass line’.

To play this riff in the key of E, start it on the 14th fret. Then, when the chord changes to an A7, we would start our lick on the 7th fret. Like this:

Blues Riff #2

This riff would sound killer, in either a solo or as a separate riff to a blues chord progression.

You don’t have to play this riff in the E minor pentatonic position, you can move it around the fret board as the chords change in a 12 bar blues.

To play this riff in the key of E, start it on the 14th fret.

Then, when the chord changes to an A7, we would start our lick on the 7th fret. Like this:
Then for the B7, we start our lick on the 9th fret.
Like this: